JV with KVIC

1109. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:
SHRI B.J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) have joined hands to promote khadi and village industries in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain potential projects have been identified under Joint Venture (JV) to improve rural economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating those that are located in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and KVIC have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on 4 August, 2008 to work jointly towards the Rural Business Hubs in rural areas by converging PMEGP, SFURTI and other schemes of KVIC. It is expected that such joint working will help generate employment as well as higher and sustained income for rural producers through better marketing and convergence of schemes of KVIC with Panchayats. Joint working arrangement will be operational for a period of three years from the date of signing of the MoC.

(c) and (d) Under the MoC, Panchayats can propose viable projects under the PMEGP scheme of KVIC which will be placed before the District Level Task Force in which there will be three members representing Panchayats. Though this arrangement is operational in all PMEGP districts, special attention will be given in RBH focus districts. Phulbani and Koraput and Ranchi and Deoghar are the RBH focus districts in Orissa and Jharkhand respectively.

KVIC has supported 118 clusters under their SFURTI scheme. Under the MoC it is proposed to extend marketing linkages to these clusters. Beekeeping cluster, Chamoli (Uttarakhand), Bamboo cluster, Kalpetta (Kerala) and Bamboo cluster, Mizoram have been identified is pilot clusters for such intervention.

Raising of retirement age

1110. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has done any exercise on proposals to raise the age of retirement of Government servants;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) whether Government has studied the pattern of employment in other countries; and

(d) the details of the proposal, the status of this proposal and reasons for mooting this proposal?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to raise the age of retirement of Government servants. The Sixth Central Pay Commission has examined the matter in all its aspects and concluded that the current age of superannuation should be maintained.

Restructuring of CBI

1111. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has undergone a complete organisational restructuring based on recommendations of a study carried out by a consultant from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi;

(b) if so, whether by the end of 2009 all major modernisation projects would be completed and Government is also considering to fill up nearly 23 per cent vacancies of the sanctioned strength;

(c) if so, whether Government has also introduced financial incentive scheme for them; and

(d) if so, to what extent CBI would be more powerful and purposeful in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A consultant from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi was appointed to undertake a study of the functioning of CBI. The consultant has recommended addressing of new areas of crime by the CBI, re-engineering of investigation and monitoring processes, reengineering of prosecution process, improvement in logistics and support facilities and use of information technology in the CBI.

Modernisation of CBI and promotion of e-governance has been undertaken on a continuous basis.

Occurrence/filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and the Government has taken all necessary steps to ensure filling up of vacancies in time.

(c) The Government has granted Special Incentive Allowance @ 25% of Pay of executive officers upto the level of Senior Superintendent of Police and @ 15% for officers above that rank in CBI.

(d) Efforts have been made to make the CBI more efficient and effective.

CBI raids to check corruption

1112. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducts raids on offices/places of officials and businessmen from time to time to check corruption;